

U.S. Pat. Appl'n 10/664,507
Amendment

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Office Action of January 12, 2005 and is believed to be fully responsive thereto. No new matter has been added to the application. It is believed that the claims define over the art, either when the art is individually considered or even if combined with one another. In the absence of an uncovering by the Examiner of new non-cumulative prior art, this application is believed allowable. Prompt and favorable action is requested and believed warranted.

Claims 1-26 have been examined. Claims 1-8, 11, 13, 18-20, and 22-24 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 6,609,385 to Ferris in view of US Patent No. 4,338,793 to O'Hern and US Patent No. 5,358,009 to Campbell. Claim 9 was rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferris in view of O'Hern and Campbell and further in view of US Patent No. 6,089,032 to Trachtenberg. Finally, Claims 10, 14, 25, and 26 have been rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferris in view of O'Hern, Campbell, Trachtenberg and further in view of US Patent No. 6,385,986 to Ferris. Claims 12, 15-17, and 21 have been deemed allowable. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that these claims recite patentable subject matter.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejections, they will be addressed substantively in a divisional application. For now, Applicant is taking the allowable subject matter of Claim 12 (and Claims 2, 3, and 11 from which 12 depends) and incorporating it into Claim 1. Thus, Claim 1 and all claims depending therefrom are now allowable. Similarly, Applicant is taking the allowable subject matter of Claim 15 (and Claim 14 from which it depends) and incorporating it into Claim 13. Thus, Claim 13 and all claims depending therefrom are now allowable. Finally, Applicant is taking the allowable subject matter of Claim 21 (and Claim from which it depends) and incorporating it into Claim 18. Thus, Claim 18 and all claims depending therefrom are now allowable. Applicant is cancelling Claims 24-26 without prejudice or disclaimer as to the filing of the aforementioned divisional application.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 4-10, 13, 16-18, 20, 22, and 23 recite patentable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance. **Applicant respectfully requests a telephonic interview with the Examiner to discuss any further changes that might be deemed necessary.** Prompt and favorable action toward the issuance of

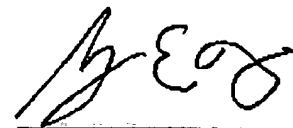
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a patent is earnestly solicited and believed to be fully warranted. Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any additional required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension may be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2105.

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Respectfully submitted,

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